



Deductive Reasoning

Using generalizations and principles to infer unstated conclusions about specific information or situations
(4 of 13 thinking/reasoning skill processes)

Creating a Performance Task

Step 1: Identify a content standard to be taught.

Step 2: Select thinking/reasoning skill processes.

Step 3: Write a 1st draft of the task incorporating steps 1 and 2.

Step 4: Identify standards from Learner Performance goals (LLL) to be included and revise task to make these standards explicit.

Step 5: Identify what kind of product/performance will be produced, add it to the performance task description.

Questions the Process Helps Explore

- ☐ What has to be true given the validity of this principle?
- ☐ What is the proof that this must be true?
- ☐ Are these specific rules operating?
- ☐ Are there things that must happen because of these rules?
- ☐ What specific topic am I studying?
- ☐ What general information do I already have that might help me understand my specific topic?
- ☐ Am I sure the general information applies to the specific topic I am studying?
- ☐ If it does, how did the general information help me understand the specific topic?

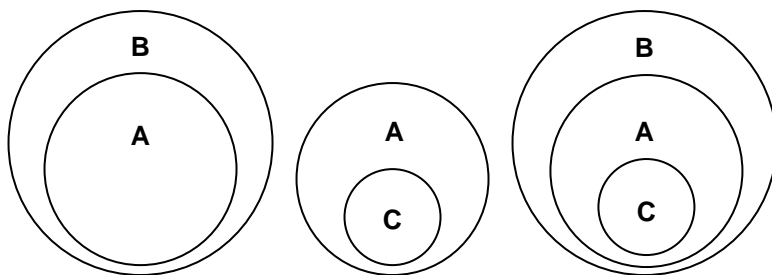
Steps in the Process

1. Identify the generalizations or principles that apply to the situation you are considering.
2. Identify the conditions that have to be in place for those generalizations or principles to apply.
3. If the conditions are in place, identify the things that must be true based on the generalizations or principles.

Teaching a Thinking Skill

- ☐ Introduce skill, give several examples, and discuss its performance (when, where, how to use it).
- ☐ Explain mental processes to do the thinking, model the process.
- ☐ Let students practice the skill several times using personal, easy to understand content.
- ☐ Put the skill into the context of your academic content.
- ☐ Model, model, model!

Optional Graphic Organizers



1. All A are B

2. All C are A

3. Therefore, all C are B

Example

Given that Eastern European countries are changing their form of economy to a free-market system, what can we conclude will have to be true in those countries once they have completed the transformation?